8697941/2024/VIG-II-PRR01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PS- PR&RD Department- Vigilance Report No.55, Dt:23.12.2021 - Allegations of irregularities levelled in the preparation of estimate for the work "construction of BT road in the village Pedapariya Ozili(M), Nellore District" - Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore (now retired) under Rule 9 (2) (b) (i) of A.P Revised Pension Rules, 1980 read with Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991- Charges framed – Written Statement of Defence - Considered - Further action dropped - Orders- Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.261 **Dated:18.03.2024**

Read the following:

1. From the DG, G.A (V & E) Department, Vigilance Report No. 55 (C.No.6321/V&E/E/2018), Dt:23.12.2021.
2. G.O.Ms.No.13, PR&RD (Vig.II) Department, Dt:04.04.2022.
3. G.O.Rt.No.129, PR&RD (Vig.II) Department, Dt:04.04.2022.
4. G.O.Rt.No.130, PR&RD (Vig.II) Department, Dt:04.04.2022.
5. From the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, Letter No.Vig.III(1)/1540/2022, Dt:06.07.2022.
6. From the ENC, PR Letter No. Vig. III (1).1540/2022, dated: 28.11.2022;
7. ENC, PR remarks dt:14.9.2023 in e-file bearing Computer No. 1609346 along with further letter of the Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Circle, Nellore, Nellore District, Lr.Rc.No.EC1/749/2022, Dt:15.07.2023

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ORDER:

Based on the recommendations of the Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department made in the reference 1st read above relating to certain irregularities against the Panchayat Raj Engineering Personnel in preparation of estimates for the work "Construction of BT road in the village Pedapariya, Ozili (M), Nellore District" and instead of adopting shortest lead for metal (34.65 Kms) i.e., Kundukur Quarry that they adopted longest metal lead (53.35 Kms) i.e., Parlapalli Quarry for the work and causing loss of Rs.4,03,690/- to the exchequer, Government vide reference 2nd read above, have accorded sanction under Rule 9 (2) (b) (i) of A.P Revised Pension Rules, 1980, to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj, Nellore (Retired). Accordingly, Government vide references 3rd & 4th read above, have initiated common disciplinary proceeding under Rule 24 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and framed following charge under Rule 20 of said rules against Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj, Nellore (Retired), with a direction to submit his written statement of defence:

Charge: That Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj, Nellore (Retired from service on

PTO.,

31.12.2017) has committed irregularities in the preparation of estimates for the work "Construction of BT road in the village Pedapariya Ozili (M), Nellore District", instead of adopting shortest lead for metal (34.65 Kms) i.e., Kundukur Quarry, the Superintending Engineer, has approved longest metal lead (53.35 Kms) i.e., Parlapalli Quarry for the work "Km 2/6 of OG road to Pedapariya in Ozili Mandal of SPSR Nellore District" causing loss of Rs.4,03,690/- to the Govt. exchequer. Hence, the charge.

2. In the reference 5th read above, the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, among others, has furnished the written statement of defence dt:27.06.2022 of the charged officer Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore (now retired) to the Government for taking further action in the matter.

3. In his written statement of defence, the charged officer Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore (now retired) has stated that he was joined as Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore on 5.11.2017. The estimate for the subject work was prepared by the E.E, PIU, Nellore on 22.11.2017 and the sub estimates of CD works which involves minimal quantity of metal were approved by him on 27.12.2017 with metal from Parlapalli Quarry based on the scrutiny done by case worker and the PA to SE duly following the norms adopted previously while according approval of sub estimates. The Road estimate and the overall estimate was technically sanctioned by the CE (PR) on 12.01.2018 with Parlapalli quarry for metal based on the previous approvals which involves huge quantity of metal when compared to CD works quantity. The Parlapalli quarry is being used for metal for execution of various works under different grants for past 10 years and the other Departments viz, Irrigation, RVM, RWS&S and APMSIDC are also adopting Parlapalli quarry or other quarries other than Kundukuru for metal for preparation of estimates in Ozili (M) of Gudur Division. He has not boosted up the estimate and there is no loss to the Government since the Parlapalli quarry for metal was well accepted by the CE (PR) since so many years. The Charged Officer has further stated that he had approved the estimate on 27.12.2017_and forwarded to Chief Engineer, PR for technical sanction and Chief Engineer accorded technical sanction on 12.01.2018. Government have framed charges against him on 04.04.2022 ie,. after a lapse of four years and the same is not maintainable as per Rule 9 (2)(b) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. While stating the above the C.O.,Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, S.E., PR (Retd.) has requested the Government to drop further action against him.

4. In the reference 6th read above, the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, has informed that the Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore in letter dt: 24.11.2022 has furnished remarks stating that Parlapalli quarry is approved in all estimates in Panchayat Raj Department and being used by all Engineering Departments for last few decades. The District Mining Department has also not communicated the Kandukuru Quarry by the time of visit of Vigilance & Enforcement Department and even today also the quarry is not approved. Further, the District Mining Department has also not communicated the same so far and in the light of the above, the field staff have utilised Parlapalli quarry during preparation of estimate for the subject work.

Contd..at P.3.,

5. In continuation, the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, in the reference 7th read above, has furnished further report of Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore dt: 15.07.2023 wherein the S.E (PR) has furnished the parameters of coarser aggregate from Kandukur Quarry and Parlapalli quarry and been got tested at Sree Srinivasa Quality Control Lab, Nellore (NABL) in the tabular statement about the test results and informed that "the test results of coarse aggregate can be concluded that Parlapalli Quarry is superior to Kundukur Quarry in view of strength parameters of the material available in Kundukur Quarry, which helps for longer life of the roads".

6. Government after careful examination of the matter and duly keeping in view of the specific reports of the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, and Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore mentioned above, have considered the written statement of defence of the charged officer Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore (now retired), as found satisfactory.

7. Accordingly, the Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby drop further action against Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then Superintending Engineer, PR, Nellore (now retired), in the matter.

8. The Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE ANDHRA PRADESH)

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

To
The Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada
Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, the then SE, PR, Nellore (now retired)
through the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada (with a request to serve the order on the retired officer and furnish the acknowledgment copy)

Copy to :
The Secretary to VC, A.P. Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi
The General Administration (V&E) Department, Vijayawada
The PR&RD (Estt.I) Department
The OSD to the Hon'ble Dy.CM for PR&RD Department
The PS to the Principal Secretary to Government, PR&RD Department
SF/SC

// FORWARDED::BY::ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER